



## SAFE MINISTRY PLEDGE

VOYAGE church requires that all church workers (volunteer or paid) adhere to the Safe Ministry Pledge. Voyage wants its ministries to be characterised by grace and forgiveness, not rules and regulations; but the Bible is concerned with our conduct. Unfortunately, not all Christian workers in the global church have protected vulnerable people in the past.

The Safe Ministry Pledge is based on the Safe Ministry Blueprints. It is expected that you have read and will comply with the relevant Safe Ministry Blueprint and other inductions that relate to your suited role. These are intended to identify the personal behaviour and practices of ministry that will ensure, as far as possible, that our children, youth and other vulnerable people are appropriately protected and cared for. This also involves adhering to WHS instructions for the safety of all people. They are not exhaustive and do not foresee every set of circumstances that may arise across the variety of church events and activities.

By agreeing to abide by the behaviour and practices outlined in the relative Blueprint for your role and this Pledge, you help to make our churches safer places for everyone.

By signing you acknowledge that you understand and agree to abide by the relative Blueprint for your role and Safe Ministry Pledge as it applies to the children, youth and other vulnerable people involved in our church and its programs. Children are considered to be under the age of 18.

If you have any queries, concerns or reporting, please contact our Safe Ministry Representative via [smr@voyage.church](mailto:smr@voyage.church) or telephone: 0427 203 477

### In acknowledgement of the above, I pledge to;

- Never** abuse children, youth, or other vulnerable people or cultivate relationships in order to initiate or cloak abuse.
- Never** abuse people especially children, youth, or other vulnerable people nor cultivate relationships in order to initiate or cloak abuse.
- Report** to the appropriate authorities any behaviour that could be considered abusive. **Never** be alone with a child or young person in my ministry role where other adults are not present (including taking children to the toilet).
- Never** have children or young people to my home, or visit children or young people in their home, when no other adult is present, and never meet privately with a child or young person outside of church activities, except with the permission of their parent or guardian.
- Never** touch children, youth, or other vulnerable people in a manner which is inappropriate given their age, gender, cultural background, or personal circumstances.
- Never** physically discipline anyone, especially a child, youth or other vulnerable person in the course of my ministry.
- Never** make alcohol, cigarettes or illicit drugs available to children or youth.
- Never** develop special relationships with particular children, youth or other vulnerable people that could be seen as involving favouritism or any form of special treatment.

File Name: Pledge v1.1		Department:	
ECCD Number:	Last Modified: 16/07/2019	Modified By: Bec Neal	Approved By:
File Location: Document1			
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- Never** engage in any contact with a children, youth, or other vulnerable people that is secretive (whether physical or through electronic media or in any other way).
- Never** become romantically involved with any participant in the youth or children’s ministry where I am a leader.
- Never** take unauthorised photos, movies or recordings of anyone, especially a child or young person on church property or at church activities without church authorisation and the consent of their parents or guardians.
- Never** view, possess, produce or distribute restricted material containing sexual acts or nudity without a legitimate purpose; and never view, possess, produce or distribute any form of child pornography or child exploitation material.

**I confirm that:**

- Where required, I shall complete Safe Ministry training every 3 years or within 3 months after my appointment (and every 3 years after that).
- Where required, I shall hold a Working with Children Check clearance obtained from the Office of the Children’s Guardian.
- I will adhere to the WHS safety requirements as directed by the WHS induction and any further instructions given.
- I will look after and take care when using and moving Voyage and equipment.
- I will report the following events as soon as possible to the Safe Ministry Representative
  - Any incident that may have a significant impact on relationships, personal safety or property.
  - When emergency services are engaged (police, ambulance or fire).
  - When a crime has been committed.
- I commit to read, understand and comply with the relevant Safe Ministry Blueprint.
- If I fail to abide by the Blueprint or Safe Ministry Pledge I shall inform the Safe Ministry Representative or a Lead Pastor at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I understand that any breach of the Safe Ministry Pledge may lead to my being suspended or terminated from holding any role in relation to working with children, youth or other vulnerable persons in church ministries.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

***If the church worker (paid or unpaid) is less than 18 years of age, a parent or authorised guardian must sign as well as the church worker:***

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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